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Report of the Insane Asylum of Oregon

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Report of the inspecting physician of the insane asylum, Oregon, to the Legislative Assembly thereof 1872;

Report of the visiting physician to the insane asylum 1874, 1878; and

Biennial report of the visiting physician to the insane asylum 1876, 1880-1882

LLMC #: 01296t

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

VISITING PHYSICIAN

OF THE

Oregon Hospital for the Insane

TO THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SALEM, OREGON:
W. P. KEADY, STATE PRINTER.
1880.

OFFICERS

Superintendent,
J. C. HAWTHORNE, M. D.

State Visiting Physician,
C. H. RAFFETY, M. D.

Assistant Physicians,
GEORGE E. NOTTAGE, M. D.
SIMON E. JOSEPHI, M. D.

Steward,
JOHN KENWORTHY,

Matron,
MARY L. KENWORTHY.

BIENNIAL REPORT.

To His Excellency, Hon. W. W. Thayer, Governor of the State of Oregon:

SIR: I have the pleasure of submitting to your consideration my statistical report with a brief outline of sanitary condition of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane and Idiotic, from December 1, 1878, to September 1, 1880.

Upon assuming the duties as Visiting Physician for the State, I found that there were 238 patients under treatment. The number admitted up to the first of September, 1880, was 187. Number discharged, cured or improved, was 113. Number of deaths 43. Leaving 281 State patients, and five private patients, under treatment.

I append below a statement tabulated by quarters, and should more minute information be desired, it can be obtained by reference to my quarterly reports, now on file in the office of the Secretary of State, which are intended to contain all necessary details.

Quarter Commencing December 1, 1878, *Ending February* 28, 1879.

No. of inmates remaining in Hospital	238
Admitted	19
Discharged	6
Deaths	8

Quarter Ending June 1, 1879.

Inmates remaining	243
Admitted	27
Discharged	15
Deaths	10

Quarter Ending September 1, 1879.

Inmates remaining	246
Admitted	29
Discharged	14
Deaths	6

Quarter Ending December 1, 1879.

Inmates remaining	256
Admitted	36
Discharged	17
Deaths	9

Quarter Ending March 1, 1880.

Inmates remaining	266
Admitted	18
Discharged	11
Deaths	1

Quarter Ending June 1, 1880.

Inmates remaining (March 1, 1880.)	273
Admitted	33
Discharged	16
Deaths	6

Quarter Ending September 1, 1880.

Inmates remaining	284
Admitted	25
Discharged	24
Deaths	3

Number of Patients Remaining in Hospital

September 1, 1880	281
Adding to that five patients that are private	5
There are at the present time in the asylum	286

The asylum building is divided into seven "wards," and the number to each is as follows:

1st male ward	52
2d " "	50
3d " "	55
4th " "	49
Total males	206

In the females wards there are:

1st female ward	19
2d " "	32
3d " "	29
Total females	80

The form of insanity of the patients remaining is as follows:

Acute Mania	54
Chronic Mania	117
Melancholia	12
Dementia	45
Idiocy	23
Epileptic Mania	20
Recurrent Mania	9
General Paralysis of Insane	1

EMPLOYEES.

There are at present employed for the protection of the unfortunates, twenty-five persons, two of whom, Drs. Geo. E. Nottage and S. E. Josephi are resident physicians, and one of whom is required to be at all times present, both day and night, to act in case of emergency.

Each ward is under the special charge of a competent Warden and assistant who are amply sufficient to give the necessary attention to every patient in their respective wards.

To the physicians, the general superintendent, Mr. John Kenworthy, I am under many obligations for kindness and assistance rendered during my tours of inspection.

It is generally conceded that each person confined to hospital life should have one thousand cubic feet of air. There is with the present number of inmates 1,569 cubic feet of air *per capita*, as appears by the following measurements:

1st male ward (per capita.)	1,337
2d " "	1,122
3d " "	1,265
4th " "	1,175
1st female ward	1,960
2d " "	2,033
3d " "	2,244

Making the average above mentioned

The provision for the supply of air being thus ample, has yet been further increased by placing transoms over each door and window, lowered at the top, thus keeping up a constant circulation of fresh air

passing through each ward night and day, and thereby doing away with the necessity for appliances requisite in other institutions of a similar character by forcing air through the building for the purposes of purification.

The building is warmed by large stoves, surrounded by iron cages, to prevent inmates from falling against them in case of convulsions, which occur nearly every hour in the day.

FUEL, ETC.

The annual consumption of fuel is over four hundred cords. The water supply is abundant, being obtained from a large spring near the buildings. It is raised by steam power to a reservoir of sufficient height to convey the water to every part of the Asylum.

A sufficient supply of hose is placed in every ward, that in case of fire may be brought into requisition upon the instant.

The provisions are as good as can be obtained, and served by a steward who thoroughly understands his business.

All *vegetables* and *fruits* are raised on land owned and cultivated by Dr. Hawthorne, and, consequently, are fresh and wholesome as is possible.

Milk and butter is obtained from cows kept upon the premises, and is supplied in abundance.

I have made special examinations, at several times, of the meats served, and have not been able to discover an inferior piece of beef, pork or mutton on hand.

Owing to the care which Dr. Hawthorne exercises in selecting and obtaining sustenance, the Hospital is almost entirely free from climatic diseases. With the exception of a few cases of measles, there has been no form of disease beyond *mania.*

The holidays are observed and made memorable to the patients by means of dinners of turkeys, chickens, etc., and other delicacies wanting to the tables of many poor families. Consequently these events are looked forward to by this unfortunate people with considerable interest, especially those with sufficient reason to appreciate the difference.

Out-door exercise is given whenever it is best for the patient to have it.

During summer months all are allowed privileges of a shady grove, prepared expressly for them. Games are instituted to divert their minds from their maniacal condition.

Quite a large building has been erected by Dr. Hawthorne for pleasure parties during the winter months, and is used on the Sabbath for religious duties, ministers of different denominations officiating.

In conclusion, I will say that I believe that the Insane of Oregon are kept as well as in any other institution of the kind in the world.

The percentage of cures is above the average of older hospitals for the Insane, and the expense, *per capita*, as reasonable, perhaps, as the State could expect, considering the number treated.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. RAFFETY, M. D.,
Visiting Physician for the State.